

legislation to close a dangerous loop-hole in our background check system.

Mr. Speaker, give us a vote.

#### TINA MEINS SPEAKS FOR ME

(Mr. TAKANO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, over and over again my colleagues have pleaded with the majority to give us a vote on legislation that will protect Americans from gun violence. Those pleas and the pleas of millions of Americans continue to be ignored.

So instead of my words, I am going to read the words of Tina Meins, whose father, Damian, was killed in San Bernardino last year: "There is room in this national debate for reason, for compromise and for compassion," she wrote. "Let us find common ground. Let's not be paralyzed because proposed solutions will not be perfect. If one person can be saved, isn't it worth the effort to fix this? Let's work together, please, for the good of everyone."

Well, Tina speaks for me, and she speaks for the thousands of families who have lost loved ones to gun violence in America.

#### GUN VIOLENCE MUST END TODAY

(Mr. KENNEDY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, 3 weeks ago we gathered on this floor for another moment of silence to remember 49 victims of the mass shooting in Orlando. In the days that followed, our response was the same as it was after Sandy Hook, Umpqua Community College, and Colorado Springs—silence followed by more silence.

In the days since, we can add hundreds of names to the list of those lost in our Nation to a unique epidemic of gun violence, including the following from Massachusetts:

David Atherton, a young firefighter and veteran;

Marcus Hall, killed as his 4-year-old son sat feet away getting his haircut;

Trevor Washington, gunned down after a disagreement at a party;

Andrew Flonory, murdered less than a mile from where his sister and 2-year-old nephew had been executed 6 years earlier;

Anthony Clay, a married father of two, who died as a woman yelled "Don't leave me" over his body;

And 19-year-old Sabrina DaSilva, who had just stepped out of her apartment to grab juice out of her car for her 2-year-old daughter, a daughter who will never see her mother again.

Mr. Speaker, they are friends and neighbors who will be forever missed by the lives they touched, daughters and sons, mothers and fathers, whose families will forever live with the pain

and suffering of losing a loved one. This violence must stop.

#### WE MUST DO SOMETHING

(Mr. CROWLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, after the historic sit-in that took place on this floor a couple weeks ago, last week I hosted a discussion on gun violence in my district. In attendance were people with a wide range of experiences with gun violence, constituents who volunteered time to advocate for better gun laws, individuals who lost family members due to gun violence, some who themselves were victims of gun violence but thankfully survived.

There were representatives from the LGBT community, public health professionals, a youth violence intervention program director, and the director of a theater production featuring people who lost loved ones to gun violence.

They came from different hometowns and different walks of life, and they have their own beliefs and world views, but they agree on one thing: we must do something to curb the tragic, persistent threat of gun violence in America.

Mr. Speaker, I don't expect all 435 Members of this body to agree on a perfect solution to this troubling issue, but I do expect them to do something that will meaningfully address it, and so do the American people.

#### WHEN WE SAT DOWN, WE STOOD UP

(Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, when my colleagues and I sat down on the floor, we stood up for millions of Americans who agree it is time for commonsense legislative action to help prevent gun violence.

When the Republican leadership ignored that call and then canceled the rest of the workweek, we took that message back to our districts. At a roundtable in my district, I met with families broken by random acts of gun violence, mothers who were moved by mass shootings, advocates calling for change, and just regular people who just wanted to see less violence. Their stories and their motivations were entirely different, but they all told me one thing: We are with you.

I refuse to let them down, and I refuse to let up until this body considers basic bipartisan, broadly supported reforms, and not shoddily crafted NRA-endorsed bills that do even less than moments of silence.

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#### GIVE US A VOTE

(Mr. SARBANES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. Speaker, a moment ago, the House Chaplain expressed the hope—I would imagine it is a fervent hope—that we would return to this place with "a spirit of common purpose." Those are the words that he used.

Nothing would reflect the common purpose of the American people more than allowing us to have a vote on gun safety legislation in this House. Ninety percent of Americans support universal background checks. That is common purpose. A majority of responsible gun owners in this country support universal background checks. That is common purpose. Eighty-five percent of Americans say that, if you can't fly on a plane because you are too dangerous, you shouldn't be able to buy a weapon. That is common purpose.

So, what is the problem? Why can't we bring legislation? Why can't we respond to the anguish and grief of so many families and communities around this country? The Speaker of this House will not allow legislation to come to the floor. He won't allow us to express the common purpose of the American people.

Give us a vote. Give us a chance to demonstrate that common purpose and address this scourge of violence in our country.

#### NO MORE EMPTY GESTURES

(Mr. HUFFMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, the whole point of the Democratic sit-in to demand congressional action on gun violence was to say that empty gestures and moments of silence for 30 seconds, followed by the bang of a gavel and resumption of business as usual will not be tolerated anymore in the face of this national gun violence epidemic.

Yet this week, our Republican colleagues are bringing forward a bill, written and blessed by the NRA, that is yet another empty gesture—a glorified moment of silence—because it establishes a completely arbitrary and artificial 72-hour timeframe and unreasonable standards that must be met within that timeframe.

I can't get my dry cleaning back in 72 hours, yet the NRA and our Republican friends expect the Attorney General to come forward, serve process, have a defendant hire an attorney, show up at a hearing, and prove with probable cause as the standard that this individual is about to commit an act of terror? Give me a break.

No more empty gestures. No more moments of silence that are completely disingenuous, including this glorified moment of silence that Republicans are bringing forward this week.